

# The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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## East River refreshes

Was this the annual DUMBO Art Under the Bridge festival or an episode of "Fear Factor"? Landon Jones from the H2O Collective offered up servings of water from the East River to eager festival-goers. Don't worry, it was filtered (he said).

# LET 'EM DRIVE

## Now a push to keep cars in Prospect Park

By Ben Muessig  
The Brooklyn Paper

Countering a wave of bike-friendly initiatives, community groups rallied on Thursday against cycling activists' calls for a car-free Prospect Park — saying that such a scheme would clog their neighborhoods with the hundreds of vehicles that currently use park roads during morning and evening rush hours. Even though the Department of Transportation says it has no plans to ban cars from the park — which is open on weekdays to northbound traffic from 7 to 9 a.m. and the southbound traffic from 5 to 7 p.m. — Community Boards 7 and 14, the Windsor Terrace Alliance and Assemblyman Jim Breenan (D-Park Slope) held a preemptive press conference and urged the city to keep cars in Prospect Park. "We're concerned about issues of exhaust emissions and noise," said Community Board 14 Chairman Alvin Berk, who predicted that banning cars in the park would dump 400 additional vehicles each hour onto Parkside Avenue between Park Circle and Ocean Avenue, citing a Department of Transportation study. "During the morning rush hour, it already backs up," Berk said. "Closing the park would create additional backups and additional exhaust." The community groups — which deem themselves "pro-neighborhood" not "anti-bike" — are fighting against a trend of lengthening car-free hours in the park, which started in the 1970s when the city closed Prospect Park to Sunday drivers. "There is a conflict between people

using the park and traffic in the park — but there is also a conflict between people in our neighborhood and traffic in our neighborhood," said Jeremy Laufer, district manager of Community Board 7. Last year, the city reduced traffic on the East Drive after cycling activists pressured Mayor Bloomberg to apply the same



pro-biking and walking policies to Prospect Park that he applied to Central Park in Manhattan. That decision resulted in increased traffic back-ups that vary depending on the time of the day and the season, according to community groups. See **PARK CARS** on page 5

## Bicylists win battle Downtown

Lanes on Jay and Smith open new front in ongoing battle



On the streets, the bike-car war often has villains on both sides. In this sequence, a biker cuts through a red light on Smith Street, maneuvering between legally passing cars as he uses the new bike lane.

By Evan Gardner  
The Brooklyn Paper

Bike riders won a huge victory in their ongoing battle with drivers for control of the roadways as the city painted a new bike lane on busy Smith and Jay streets. The route is a main feeder

for bike commuters heading to the Manhattan Bridge, yet its narrow proportions, heavy car and bike traffic and frequent congestion from double-parked trucks make it the scene of frequent near-misses. "It's kind of crazy on this street," said Quynh, a cyclist who declined to give his last

name. As he gestured to a street crowded with honking cars, one rider stopped to catch her breath after a close call with a cab that had nearly hit her as he made a legal right turn across the freshly painted divider. The new bike lane is coming in the middle of a street fight

putting bike and car commuters — and pedestrians — in a turf war that has not been without casualties. Last month, two riders were hit and killed by vehicles on Brooklyn streets, and a Kensington woman who was crossing 12th Avenue at Duffield Road was killed after she was struck by a car. See **D-TOWN** on page 5

## No 'limit': DeBlasio to take on Marty



Councilman Bill DeBlasio will take on Marty if term limits die.

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

Mayor Bloomberg's bid to end term limits is setting up an epic race for borough president, pitting incumbent Beep Marty Markowitz against powerhouse Councilman Bill DeBlasio. Markowitz has long said he'd seek to retain his Borough Hall perch if term limits are lifted. He's occupied the office since 2001 and coveted it for his 21 years as a state Senator before that. But this week, DeBlasio, a prolific fundraiser whose \$608,200 war chest has made him the front-runner to succeed Markowitz, indicated that he would still run

whether the Beep is in the race or not. "There is still an election on Sept. 15, 2009 and I am running for Brooklyn borough president," he said through his spokeswoman Gwen Rocco. DeBlasio did dismiss any discussion of his coming race against Markowitz as "hypothetical at this point" — but then immediately challenged the incumbent to do the right thing during the term-limit debate. "I will fight any change in the term-limit law, but make no mistake — the borough president and I disagree on this matter," DeBlasio said. "The only reasonable way to change term limits is to bring it back to the voters' who approved the two-term cap

in 1993 and 1996. For now, Markowitz, who has banked \$935,116 in contributions, declined to hurl his own lightning bolt in this clash of the titans. But like DeBlasio (D-Park Slope), Markowitz says he can't wait for the biggest Beep battle in Brooklyn history. "It was always my dream to serve Brooklyn as borough president, and if term limits are indeed extended, I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve Brooklynites for another term," Markowitz said in a statement. A Markowitz vs. DeBlasio matchup could be won and lost on the charred battlefield of issues like development and the use of the bully pulpit. Markowitz has been a staunch supporter of Atlantic Yards while DeBlasio did an about-face, and is now a critic of the mega-project. In his seven years as Beep, Markowitz has used his office to champion retail development and to cheerlead the borough as a tourist destination. DeBlasio has made "affordable" housing and environmental issues some of his chief policy planks. If Markowitz has the opportunity to stand for re-election, he says the voters will want him around for four more years to keep the good times rolling. "My constituents know me, and they know that for me, 'job one' is ensuring we continue the

See **LIMITS** on page 5



Borough President Markowitz is poised for a fight.

## Paper wins again!

The Brooklyn Paper

Stop the presses! The Brooklyn Paper won a series of top honors last week at the annual conference of the Independent Free Press of America in Seattle. The Paper walked away with three first place awards and was a finalist for the IFPA's coveted Vice Joe Award for General Excellence. Here is a roll call of our copious honors:

- BrooklynPaper.com, the borough's leading local news Web site, won for a design spearheaded by our Webmaster Sybil Migdal and podcasts, news and art content created by the entire staff.
- The Paper's front page design, crafted by Senior Editor Vince DiMiceli, was honored as distinctive and crisp.
- Our exceptionally modest editor, Gersh Kuntzman, won in the Original Writing / Personal Column category for his weekly Brooklyn Angle column. He was cited for columns in which he interviewed the Aquarium's late, great "self-loving" walrus Avvy, downed high-fiber cereal before using a "green toilet," and drank a \$3 cup of coffee.
- Earlier this year, Kuntzman's Brooklyn Angle won first place from Suburban Newspapers of America, which also named him "Editor of the Year" and "most awarded." The Brooklyn Paper is "News-paper of the Year" honor.
- "Obviously, I'm supposed to say I'm humbled by all these honors, but that would be uncharacteristic," said Kuntzman. "But suffice it to say, I am proud to be working with such amazing people."
- In addition, The Brooklyn Paper was one of three finalists for the Vice Joe Award for General Excellence.
- The IFPA is the leading organization representing publishers of independently owned, free circulation community newspapers throughout the United States and Canada.

## An argument is 'eminent'

Yards case advances

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-development suffered a legal blow on Monday when a state court refused a request by development officials to dismiss a lawsuit challenging the project's reliance on eminent domain. The denial of the Empire State Development Corporation's motion to dismiss the case against the state for improper use of its condemnation power delays for at least another six months Ratner's ability to start construction of his 16-skipper arena, residential and office complex at the corner of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues. Oral arguments will be early next year.

"While the ... decision to hear the case may delay the project for approximately six months, let me be clear that the project will go forward," Ratner said in a statement. Though Ratner downplayed the delay, opponents of the development pointed out that he recently told The New York Times that he plans to "break ground" in December, but it is unclear how he will be able to do that given that his \$400-million naming-rights deal with Barclays has not been finalized, the Treasury Department is seen as increasingly unlikely to see **YARD** on page 11



Plaintiff's lawyer Matthew Brinkerhoff

## Anxiety on Main Street

Who knew that the "Main Street" that all those congressmen have been talking about is right here in Brooklyn? This week, our "leaders" spoke of the need to bail out "Wall Street" to save "Main Street," the place where small business owners form the backbone of our society, where homeowners are just one missed paycheck away from getting foreclosed on a mortgage they should never have been offered in the first place, where family values are so strong that they may be the only thing that will pull us through this mess. That sounded to me just like our Main Street, that two-block cobblestone stretch from Plymouth to Front streets in that least Middle American of neighborhoods, DUMBO. Granted, on this Main Street, the local bookstore sells such mainstream fare as coffee-table books like "The 1980s (alas, the book is about disco, not the Crash of '87) and the sexual practices of Japanese feminists (who knew that a naked woman in bondage gear could be so sexy).



And on this Main Street, the community theater is the Galapagos Art Space, where the walls feature both paintings of naked women masturbating and posters promoting an upcoming kite-flying event for kids. This Main Street also has a kitchen supply store where refrigerators routinely run \$7,000 and the store's manager is also a chef who just happened to be whipping up a fragrant sabayon for an upcoming party when I walked in on my fact-finding mission to gauge the local mood. But all the luxury items are just window dressing — actually, the win-

down dressing on this Main Street is huge pictures of half-naked men hanging in the bookstore window, but I digress — the point is that people on this Main Street are just as anxious as their countrymen on "Main Street," albeit their anxieties are a



bit different. "My first reaction to the financial crisis was, 'There goes the cabaret,'" said Jose Perna, an artist who is creating a show at the Galapagos Art Space called "Floating Cabaret," an authentic multi-act show based, he said, "on the original Weimar-era cabarets." "Most people see art as expendable," he added. "It's the first thing to go." Daniel Power, who owns the Powerhouse Arena, the bookstore and boutique publishing house at 37 Main St., disagreed. He said his products — art-house books — are uniquely expendable. "Our returns are way up, so, yes, I'm anxious," said Power. "We make and sell a luxury item: entertainment in book form. It's the first thing to go." Well, if Power and Perna are right, they're not right by much. "Are you kidding me? We're freaking out upstairs," said Bill D'Agostino, who emerged as a spokesman for a group of guys who work in a payroll services company at 45 Main St. "Our product is harder and harder to sell and our lost client list is getting longer. Everyone is worried." Jonnie Clause, who's the sabayon-maker's boss at the BSH Home Appliance Co., said he's also worried. See **MAIN ST.** on page 5

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## When Do Two Feet Matter? When \$16,728,000 Rides on It!



by Richard A. Klass, Esq.

The first step was to file a Notice of Pending (or a Lis Pendens) against the Block and Lot of the property. This document gives notice to the entire world that there is a dispute which affects the use or possession of real property, and preserves the rights of the buyer, since whoever buys the property is deemed to have knowledge of the dispute.

Simultaneously, a Complaint against the seller was filed, alleging that:

- (a) the developer fully complied with the Contract of Sale and was entitled to "specific performance" because the law recognizes that real estate is considered a "unique" asset;
- (b) the electronic communication from the seller to the buyer's attorney concerning the "time of the essence" closing date did not properly close (it is always important to check the notice provision of any contract to see how communication to the other side is to be sent, e.g. certified mail, overnight delivery, etc.);
- (c) the seller failed to actually deliver the Deed to the property, by coming to the place of closing, as required by the contract (the non-breaching party to a real estate contract must prove that it is showed up at the place and time indicated in the contract to deliver the Deed, even if the other side does not come; and
- (d) the title defects rendered title to the property unmarketable and unusable; thus, the developer was entitled to the return of all of its down payment and operating costs.

In New York, it is well settled that in order to place a seller in default for a claimed failure to provide clear title, the purchaser must first tender performance and demand good title. (Caponella v. Cuman, 216 A.D2d 509) Following that line, a tender of performance by the purchaser is required only if the title defect is not curable. (Cohen v. Kisan, 12 NY2d 242) The law also recognizes that a purchaser may opt to waive a title defect concerning the property in order to close title.

The end result of this case was that, despite the claim of the seller that the faithful laughed along with the supermarket-loving Markowitz. They were under the spell of the California-based chain, perhaps best known for reasonably priced frozen foods such as mandarin chicken and wild salmon for \$5.99 a pound and other easy-to-prepare Trader Joe's-labeled foods that dominate the shelves and coolers.

"Trader Joe's knows what the consumer wants and they figured out the magic recipe for

cheap, healthy food," said Seth Unger, a Brooklyn Heights resident.

Another early bird said she liked the new store because, unlike standard supermarkets with their predictable products, she never knows what she'll find on the shelves in Trader Joe's, which is a boon to food adventurers, but not so good for people hunting for specific ingredients.

"I never come in with a shopping list," said Theresa Antoine of Canarsie.

Trader Joe's became the newest addition to the growing family of national retailers in Brooklyn when the long-awaited supermarket on Court Street last Friday morning.

A driving rain and blustery winds did not stop about 200 eager and already-devoted customers from coiling around the block in Cobble Hill to get into the quirky grocery at 9 a.m.

Borough President Markowitz greeted the soggy shoppers before the official opening and told them good naturedly, "You guys are nuts," for queuing up in such foul weather.

But the faithful laughed along with the supermarket-loving Markowitz. They were under the spell of the California-based chain, perhaps best known for reasonably priced frozen foods such as mandarin chicken and wild salmon for \$5.99 a pound and other easy-to-prepare Trader Joe's-labeled foods that dominate the shelves and coolers.

"Trader Joe's knows what the consumer wants and they figured out the magic recipe for

### By Ben Muessig The Brooklyn Paper

The best gelato doesn't come from a cooler in Sicily, but rather a tanning salon in Bensonhurst.

Self-described "gelato maestro" Gino Cammarata emerged this March after a five-year hiatus from the city's culinary scene — and instead of opening his new shop on a bustling restaurant row, Cammarata opened the tiny Oro Verde Gelati in a storefront shared with a Alaskan Sun Tanning on a stretch of 86th Street more fit for auto repair shops than gourmet eateries.

"This is like my home," said the artisanal gelato maker of the narrow storefront, between 16th and 17th avenues, which attracted him because of its heavy-duty walk-in freezer. "I sleep here and I nap here between making batches."

But location — and a nearly fanatical devotion to his craft — aren't the only things that separate Cammarata from the borough's other gelato purveyors. Instead of catering to Amer-



Gelato maestro Gino Cammarata is hawking treats at his new Bensonhurst shop — Oro Verde Gelati — which opened inside a tanning salon (yes, a tanning salon) on 86th Street this spring.

ican palates with sugary tastes, familiar flavors and bird colors, Cammarata — who is best known for his Manhattan gelato bar and Mediterranean restaurant Bussola that closed in 2003 — scoops out traditional Sicilian gelatos: fig, ricotta cream, hazelnut, and pistachio, among other flavors.

"If you're a businessman, you just make what sells," he said. "If you're a chef, you like to introduce people to things that are different."

Doing things different in Brooklyn's bland gelato scene means natural ingredients, no additives, and offering risky — yet traditional — dishes including a Sicilian ice cream sandwich served on brioche and coated with macadamia nuts and pistachios (\$5).

"I don't make the common flavors, I don't like the competition," said Cammarata. "I like to create."

But being creative comes with a cost.

"If people don't know something, they are afraid to try it," said Cammarata, who worries that his uncommon flavors and high-for-the-neighborhood rates (\$2.50 for an espresso cone, \$3.50 for a pistachio cone) might scare away customers.

"Brooklyn people think it's a little bit overpriced," said Cammarata, who shells out \$28 per

pound for his gourmet pistachios. "But if you eat the right things, you satisfy your palate."

Walk-in business has been slow, but Cammarata keeps Oro Verde in the green with a busy wholesale trade that stocks Manhattan restaurants like Padre Figlio and the famed Du Silvano, which, according to Cammarata, has used his lemon gelato to make specialty cocktails.

Everyone back in "the city" still speaks of Cammarata with the hushed tones typically reserved for a deity.

"His gelato is even better than everyone says it is," said Antonio Cerra, co-owner of Padre Figlio on East 44th Street in Manhattan — which stocks Cammarata's gelato. "Most of the time, the first bite is when you get all of the texture and the flavor — it usually fades after the first bite. But every time I bite into his gelato, it's like the first bite."

Cammarata hopes that his walk-in business will pick up, but beyond the possible introduction of a soap and sandwich to the short menu, he has no plans to attract customers with Baskin-Robbins-style flavors or Coldstone-style fixings.

"Some people don't have the luck to taste the original thing, but that's what I give you — the original taste," he said.

## Trader Joe's opens; Boro drools

### By Mike McLaughlin The Brooklyn Paper

Trader Joe's became the newest addition to the growing family of national retailers in Brooklyn when the long-awaited supermarket on Court Street last Friday morning.

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"Trader Joe's knows what the consumer wants and they figured out the magic recipe for



Hundreds braved the rain on Friday to officially open Trader Joe's, the quirky supermarket at the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Court Street.

cheap, healthy food," said Seth Unger, a Brooklyn Heights resident.

Another early bird said she liked the new store because, unlike standard supermarkets with their predictable products, she never knows what she'll find on the shelves in Trader Joe's, which is a boon to food adventurers, but not so good for people hunting for specific ingredients.

"I never come in with a shopping list," said Theresa Antoine of Canarsie.

Trader Joe's bestowed complimentary reusable shopping bags on the early arrivals as well as the rhythms of a Caribbean steel drum band inside the landmark former Independence Bank Building that has been lovingly converted into an emporium with paintings of iconic Brooklyn imagery like Ebbets Field and Coney Island, on the walls.

The added competition from the new store on the block did not face a nearby specialty store. "Are they going to be compe-

tion? Yes, in some respects," said Charlie Sahadi, owner of Sahadi's, the venerable Middle Eastern market on Atlantic Avenue.

Sahadi said he was bracing for a temporary diversion of customers to Trader Joe's, but was confident that over a couple of months, pedestrian traffic would actually increase in his store, thanks to the spillover effect from his proximity to a destination store like Trader Joe's.

The national supermarket is another in a long line of chain stores to make inroads in what had historically been a commercial landscape of mom-and-pops. Target, Ikea, Home Depot and Lowe's have all sprouted in Brownstone Brooklyn. More recently, the Beep has been campaigning to lure high-end clothier Nordstrom's.

"Bringing Trader Joe's to Brooklyn is something I've been trying to do for a long time," said Markowitz, adding, "I'd like to be able to announce the next one before I leave office [at the end of 2009]."

Possible location? The Beep said he likes what he sees in Mill Basin.

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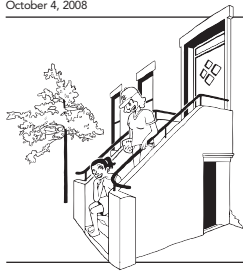
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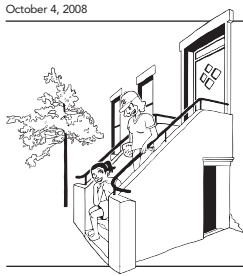
## NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

# City says 'go' directly to jail

# Judges end 'Park' perk

## Agree to no longer park their cars on walkway

Heights	Brownsville	Bushwick	Carroll Gardens	Canarsie	Clinton Hill	City Line	Cobble Hill	Coney Island	Crown Heights	Cypress Hills	Downtown
Brooklyn	Dyker Heights	East Flatbush	East New York	Flatbush	Flatlands	Fort Greene	Fort Hamilton	Gerrietsen Beach	Gowanus	Gravesend	
Greenpoint	Homecrest	Kensington	Manhattan Beach	Marine Park	Midwood	Navy Yard	Mill Basin	Ocean Hill	Park Slope	Prospect Heights	
Prospect-Lefferts Gardens	Prospect Park South	Red Hook	Sea Gate	Sheepshead Bay	Starrett City	Stuyvesant Heights	Sunset Park	Weeksville			
Williams	<b>Cablevision</b>	ach	Bay Ridge	Bedford	Stuyvesant	Bensonhurst	Bergen Beach	<b>Time Warner</b>		Beach	
Brooklyn	<b>Channel 12</b>	Carroll Gardens	Canarsie	Clinton Hill	City Line	Cobble Hill		<b>Channel 156</b>		ss Hills	
Downtown		st Flatbush	East New York	Flatbush	Flatlands	Fort Greene				wnanus	
Gravesend	Greenpoint	Homecrest	Kensington	Manhattan Beach	Marine Park	Midwood	Mill Basin	Navy Yaru	ocean Hill	Park Slope	Prospect



# THE SPOOK

## NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

### PARK SLOPE

## Windsor menace! Cops: We have nabbed this one-man wrecking crew

By Sarah Portlock  
The Brooklyn Paper

Cops have arrested a hammer-wielding punk who terrorized Windsor Terrace, smashing at least 30 car windows, until he was finally caught in action with two accomplices.

But this perp was no simple criminal: a police source told The Brooklyn Paper that his crime spree began after a close friend was critically injured in the Bronx.

Just after midnight on Sept. 10, cops from the 72nd Precinct found the suspect hard at work, allegedly smashing the glass of a car's window with a hammer at the corner of 18th Street and Terrace Place, according to the District Attorney's office.

The precinct increased police presence in the area in response to the rise in break-ins, and the patrol cops watched as their wanted man broke into an Oldsmobile sedan, stole the radio, and walked over to a waiting get-away car where his two friends were sitting.

But the boys, ages 20, 21, and 22, didn't make it very far. Cops arrested all three their identities are being withheld as a matter of policy by The Brooklyn Paper until their lawyers return our reporter's calls.

Cops say the ringleader confessed to a multitude of smashings around the neighborhood, the cop source said.

Worried neighbors were relieved to hear the news, having spent weeks e-mailing back and forth about the attacks, said Windsor Terrace Alliance President Lauren Elvers Collins.

"People have been upset about the break-ins," she said. "People were reporting clumps of cars all over the place that were getting broken into, and people are pretty happy they got caught."

### PARK SLOPE

## A 'charter' effort Indie 6-12 school to rise near BAM, parents are psyched

By Sarah Portlock  
The Brooklyn Paper

Parents from Park Slope to Red Hook will get a chance to send their kids to an artsy charter school — just in time to assuage local fears about existing middle schools.

The co-founders of Brooklyn Prospect Charter School, Dan Rubenstein and Luyen Chou, have long dreamed of starting a school "their way," and while there is no formal location yet, Rubenstein is looking for space near the Brooklyn Academy of Music in Fort Greene to partner with the institution in creating a program full of arts and performance classes.

"Visual arts is a core class, but we wanted to have a broad range of rich artistic and creative offerings, so the partnership with BAM is a really fantastic opportunity," Rubenstein said.

The school is set to open in September 2009 with 88 sixth graders — though it is meant to expand year by year until it includes sixth through 12th graders, all following the challenging International Baccalaureate curriculum.

Fifty parents have already applied within District 15, which covers Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Gowanus, Red Hook, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill and Boerum Hill. Many parents in those neighborhoods complain that there aren't enough seats in the best middle schools — and not enough good middle schools in the first place.

A charter school is a public school, though it is independently financed and exempt from some bureaucratic red tape. Students are selected to attend through a lottery system.

The two founders met when they were studying at Columbia University's Teachers College. Rubenstein is now the chair of the math department at Collegiate, the prestigious private school in Manhattan, and Chou is a longtime private school educator.

"I've been planning this school for 10 years — actively for the last three," Rubenstein said. "We really started this project by looking at rethinking education for the 21st century."

Interested parents can attend information sessions on Oct. 6 and Oct. 27 at New York Methodist Hospital (Sixth Street) between Seventh and Eighth avenues in Park Slope at 6 p.m. For information or to RSVP, visit [www.brooklynprospect.org](http://www.brooklynprospect.org).

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### BAY RIDGE

## Greenmarket may wither

By Ben Muessig  
The Brooklyn Paper

The Greenmarket that's about to take root in grocery-starved Bay Ridge won't survive the winter unless it makes some serious green.

The farmers market will convene every week starting this Saturday in the parking lot of a shuttered Third Avenue Key Food that is slated to become a Walgreens pharmacy — but will close at the end of the year unless Walgreens allows it to continue or it finds an alternate space and, indeed, if there is a reason for it to continue at all.

"We know that we have a home through December," Greenmarket Director Michael Hurwitz told The Brooklyn Paper on Monday. "We'll see if it's a success and we'll ask Walgreens and see if we can stay there longer."

The Greenmarket must close — or move — in January so that workers can turn the old Key Food at the corner of 95th Street and Third Avenue into the chain pharmacy that is scheduled to open in the spring, said Walgreens District Director Hien Nguyen.

After that, the future is murkier than unfiltered apple cider at a farmers market. Even though the market will only be in season for three months, local politicians are eager to reap its bounty — especially after the June closure of the Key Food.

"We took the lemons handed to us at the closing of our neighborhood grocery store, and we made lemonade," said Councilman Vince Gentile.

Many RIdgites are excited to shop at the temporary market, which will feature locally grown fruits and vegetables, regional fish, cheeses, grass-fed beef, chicken, rabbit and pork, among other foods, every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"There is no fresh fruit in the neighborhood," said eager shopper Fay Fujii, who commutes from Web Street to Union Square in Manhattan to buy fresh pro-



The greenmarket is coming! The greenmarket is coming! Yes, Key Food is closed, but its parking lot will host a greenmarket this fall. But for how long?

duce at the famed market there. "There is only one store above 86th Street that sells fruit and vegetables."

This isn't Bay Ridge's first attempt to grow a Greenmarket.

In April, Gentile tried to plant a farmers market in the parking lot of the Our Lady of the Angel's church on Fourth Avenue and 74th Street, but the house of worship chopped down the proposal because it didn't want to sacrifice its lot.

In the late 1990s, a farmers market withered in Leafy Ericson Park, at the corner of 67th Street and Fourth Avenue, because of a lack of customers.

But Greenmarket officials are optimistic that this market will bloom.

"The previous location didn't have the foot traffic that Third Avenue has," said Hurwitz.

"We are confident that this is the type of location that could work. It's a hub, it's a shopping destination, and it has the existing foot traffic."

For the market to survive the winter, it must attract customers devoted to locally grown produce — a demographic in Bay Ridge that seems to be on the rise.

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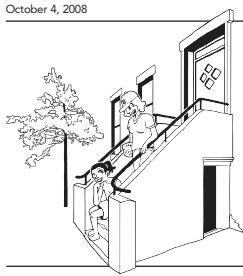


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# THE SLOO

## NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

### PARK SLOPE

## Windsor menace! Cops: We have nabbed this one-man wrecking crew

By Sarah Portlock  
The Brooklyn Paper

Cops have arrested a hammer-wielding punk who terrorized Windsor Terrace, smashing at least 30 car windows, until he was finally caught in action with two accomplices.

But this perp was no simple criminal: a police source told The Brooklyn Paper that his crime spree began after a close friend was critically injured in the Bronx.

Just after midnight on Sept. 10, cops from the 72nd Precinct found the suspect hard at work, allegedly smashing the glass of a car's window with a hammer at the corner of 18th Street and Terrace Place, according to the District Attorney's office.

The precinct increased police presence in the area in response to the rise in break-ins, and the patrol cops watched as their wanted man broke into an Oldsmobile sedan, stole the radio, and walked over to a waiting get-away car where his two friends were sitting.

But the boys, ages 20, 21, and 22, didn't make it very far. Cops arrested all three their identities are being withheld as a matter of policy by The Brooklyn Paper until their lawyers return our reporter's calls.

Cops say the ringleader confessed to a multitude of smashings around the neighborhood, the cop source said.

Worried neighbors were relieved to hear the news, having spent weeks e-mailing back and forth about the attacks, said Windsor Terrace Alliance President Lauren Elvers Collins.

"People have been upset about the break-ins," she said. "People were reporting clumps of cars all over the place that were getting broken into, and people are pretty happy they got caught."

### PARK SLOPE

## A 'charter' effort Indie 6-12 school to rise near BAM, parents are psyched

By Sarah Portlock  
The Brooklyn Paper

Parents from Park Slope to Red Hook will get a chance to send their kids to an artsy charter school — just in time to assuage local fears about existing middle schools.

The co-founders of Brooklyn Prospect Charter School, Dan Rubenstein and Luyen Chou, have long dreamed of starting a school "their way," and while there is no formal location yet, Rubenstein is looking for space near the Brooklyn Academy of Music in Fort Greene to partner with the institution in creating a program full of arts and performance classes.

"Visual arts is a core class, but we wanted to have a broad range of rich artistic and creative offerings, so the partnership with BAM is a really fantastic opportunity," Rubenstein said.

The school is set to open in September 2009 with 88 sixth graders — though it is meant to expand year by year until it includes sixth through 12th graders, all following the challenging International Baccalaureate curriculum.

Fifty parents have already applied within District 15, which covers Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Gowanus, Red Hook, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill and Boerum Hill. Many parents in those neighborhoods complain that there aren't enough seats in the best middle schools — and not enough good middle schools in the first place.

A charter school is a public school, though it is independently financed and exempt from some bureaucratic red tape. Students are selected to attend through a lottery system.

The two founders met when they were studying at Columbia University's Teachers College. Rubenstein is now the chair of the math department at Collegiate, the prestigious private school in Manhattan, and Chou is a longtime private school educator.

"I've been planning this school for 10 years — actively for the last three," Rubenstein said. "We really started this project by looking at rethinking education for the 21st century."

Interested parents can attend information sessions on Oct. 6 and Oct. 27 at New York Methodist Hospital (Sixth Street) between Seventh and Eighth avenues in Park Slope at 6 p.m. For information or to RSVP, visit [www.brooklynprospect.org](http://www.brooklynprospect.org).

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### BAY RIDGE

## Greenmarket may wither

By Ben Muessig  
The Brooklyn Paper

The Greenmarket that's about to take root in grocery-starved Bay Ridge won't survive the winter unless it makes some serious green.

The farmers market will convene every week starting this Saturday in the parking lot of a shuttered Third Avenue Key Food that is slated to become a Walgreens pharmacy — but will close at the end of the year unless Walgreens allows it to continue or it finds an alternate space and, indeed, if there is a reason for it to continue at all.

"We know that we have a home through December," Greenmarket Director Michael Hurwitz told The Brooklyn Paper on Monday. "We'll see if it's a success and we'll ask Walgreens and see if we can stay there longer."

The Greenmarket must close — or move — in January so that workers can turn the old Key Food at the corner of 95th Street and Third Avenue into the chain pharmacy that is scheduled to open in the spring, said Walgreens District Director Hien Nguyen.

After that, the future is murkier than unfiltered apple cider at a farmers market. Even though the market will only be in season for three months, local politicians are eager to reap its bounty — especially after the June closure of the Key Food.

"We took the lemons handed to us at the closing of our neighborhood grocery store, and we made lemonade," said Councilman Vince Gentile.

Many RIdgites are excited to shop at the temporary market, which will feature lo-



The greenmarket is coming! The greenmarket is coming! Yes, Key Food is closed, but its parking lot will host a greenmarket this fall. But for how long?

cally grown fruits and vegetables, regional fish, cheeses, grass-fed beef, chicken, rabbit and pork, among other foods, every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"There is no fresh fruit in the neighborhood," said eager shopper Fay Fujii, who commutes from Web Street to Union Square in Manhattan to buy fresh pro-

duce at the famed market there. "There is only one store above 86th Street that sells fruit and vegetables."

This isn't Bay Ridge's first attempt to grow a Greenmarket.

In April, Gentile tried to plant a farmers market in the parking lot of the Our Lady of the Angel's church on Fourth Avenue and 74th Street, but the house of worship chopped down the proposal because it didn't want to sacrifice its lot.

In the late 1990s, a farmers market withered in Leafy Ericson Park, at the corner of 67th Street and Fourth Avenue, because of a lack of customers.

But Greenmarket officials are optimistic that this market will bloom.

"The previous location didn't have the foot traffic that Third Avenue has," said Hurwitz.

"We are confident that this is the type of location that could work. It's a hub, it's a shopping destination, and it has the existing foot traffic."

For the market to survive the winter, it must attract customers devoted to locally grown produce — a demographic in Bay Ridge that seems to be on the rise.

More than 100 residents have banded together to form a food coop to fill the vegetable void, and a neighborhood CSA is thriving.

Will the growing interest in fresh veggies help the temporary farmer's market plant permanent roots in Bay Ridge? Only time will tell.

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Qualified applicants will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria. To request an application mail a POSTCARD to: Sister Strength DFC/YWCA of Brooklyn, 30 Third Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11217. Completed applications must be returned by regular mail only (no priority, certified, registered, express or overnight mail will be accepted) to a post office box that will be listed with the application, and must be postmarked by December 3, 2008. Applications postmarked after December 3, 2008 will be set aside for possible future consideration. Applications will be selected by lot. Applicants who submit more than one application per household will be disqualified. Preference will be given to New York City residents. Current and eligible residents of Brooklyn Community Board 2 will receive preference for 50% of the units. Eligible households that include persons with mobility impairments will receive preference for 5% of the units; eligible households that include persons with visual and/or hearing impairments will receive preference for 2% of the units; and eligible City of New York Municipal Employees will receive a 5% preference.

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**84TH PRECINCT**  
**Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO**  
Boorum Hill-Downtown  
A burglar entered through a wall at a DUMBO-based film production studio, making off with \$4,000 worth of laptops and video cameras over the weekend of Sept. 20.  
Employees arrived at work at 9 am on Sept. 22 and found that a wall in their office, which is on Jay Street between Water and Front streets, had the human-size hole in it.

**Wallet wanted**  
Two punks mugged a teenager at Clark and Henry streets on Sept. 28, after they followed him from Manhattan on the 2-train. The punks first started talking to their victim, who is from Pennsylvania, as he waited for the train around 5:30 am at the Fulton Street station.  
When the train came, the boys went in different cars, but when the victim got off two stops later, the punks caught up with him and followed him.  
That's when one perp threatened to punch him while the other demanded cash.

**In stitches**  
Cops arrested two dueling teenagers on Sept. 24 after one cop, who tried to break up a fight, had to get three stitches after the teen shoved him into a glass window. The incident happened around 3:20 pm at the corner of Jay and Wiloughby streets, and witnesses called the cops to break up the scuffle.  
But when one cop tried to get between the 13- and 14-year-olds, he instead got thrown through the window and was rushed to the hospital. — Sarah Portlock

**88TH PRECINCT**  
**Fort Greene-Clinton Hill**  
**Finders key-pers**  
A man gave up his search for his fallen car keys too quickly on Fulton Street on Sept. 23. A 52-year-old driver said after

parking his car near the corner of South Oxford Street at noon, he dropped his keys on the ground. Unable to find them, he went inside for two hours.  
Someone else, perhaps with sharper eyesight, located them and drove off with the victim's \$200.50 Saab.

**Troubled teens**  
Police arrested three 13-year-old boys — one of whom carried a gun — who tried to rob a man at the corner of South Portland Avenue and Fulton Street on Sept. 24.  
The trifecta of troublemakers demanded money from a 23-year-old man at 8:30 pm.  
He refused to back in anything, so one of the juvenile delinquents brandished a gun and repeated their demand.  
This time, the man fled to the subway and a patrolman arrested the youngsters.

**Rock and roll**  
An intruder looted a Greene Avenue apartment after heaving a rock through a bedroom window on Sept. 22.  
The apartment, between Grand and Classon avenues, was unoccupied from 9:45 am to 5:45 pm, according to the 30-year-old resident.  
She told police the prowler took her laptop, but did not appear to steal anything additional.

**Nothing's sacred**  
A man mugged another man at the corner of Myrtle and Park avenues on Sept. 25.  
The mugger threatened the 28-year-old victim at 1 am with a gun, though he never revealed it. The thief took \$6, a bag of groceries and the man's Koran. — Mike McLaughlin

**76TH PRECINCT**  
**Carroll Gardens**  
**Cobble Hill-Red Hook**  
**Hamburglars**  
Three bandits dressed in black robbed a fast-food restaurant on Hamilton Avenue on Sept. 23. The trio burst into the chain-be-

tween Court and Smith streets at 12:45 am through a door left open while one employee took the hamburger joint's trash outside.  
They made their way to the vault where a 43-year-old woman was counting the day's receipts. They knocked her to the ground and stole \$3,000.

**Re-gifting**  
Burglars stole jewelry, cash and gift certificates from a Second Street apartment on Sept. 17.  
The 41-year-old resident told police she left her flat at 10 am and found it in a state of disarray at 8 pm when she returned from work. She suspected that the intruder climbed through the kitchen window to nick \$300, \$200 in gift certificates and assorted pieces of jewelry.

**Wi-NO!**  
Not only did burglars loot a Smith Street apartment between Sept. 19 and 21, but they even stole the resident's wine, making it tougher for her to ease the pain from the break in.  
The 30-year-old resident left her home at 1 pm on Sept. 19 and came back two days later to find her front door kicked in and her camera, laptop, iPod, BlackBerry, checks, medicine and the liquid relief missing.

**Messed up**  
Hoodlums broke into an Atlantic Avenue apartment on Sept.

17, but didn't appear to do anything more than make a mess of the bedroom.  
The 34-year-old resident informed police someone had scattered the contents of her jewelry box across her bed while she was not home from 7 pm to just before midnight, but it did not seem to her that anything was taken.  
The building between Hamilton and Henry streets has a malfunctioning lock, according to the victim. — Mike McLaughlin

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# CRACKHOUSE COVERS UP

Brooklyn Paper gets action on 'Eternal Sunshine' house

By Ben Muessig

The Brooklyn Paper  
Williamsburg residents are ecstatic that the owners of a former mansion turned crackhouse have booted a group of vagrants that had turned their tree-lined block into an eternal nightmare.

The decrepit home at 59 Orient Ave., which hosted scenes from the underappreciated 2004 Jim Carrey film "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," became a den of debauchery for drifters this year.

Squatters, drugies and prostitutes passed through neighbors' yards and kicked through a shaky plywood fence to get into the abandoned building, where they stripped the once grand edifice of valuable copper, set at least two fires, and terrified residents of the block — where the film's director, Michel Gondry, coincidentally purchased a property earlier this year.

Police struggled to break up the criminal clubhouse because the building was unsafe to enter, and because they couldn't get in touch with the owners.

"Someone needs to do something about this," neighbor Nina Gilbert pleaded in August.

"I feel like my safety is really compromised. It used to be a really short and really pleasant walk back from the train — now I don't feel safe," she said.

That's when The Brooklyn Paper started asking questions.

After a Paper reporter ques-



The Orient Avenue crackhouse — which, in happier times, appeared in the movie "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" — has been boarded up, thanks to a Brooklyn Paper story.

tioned building owner Carlos Mery, he and his brother replaced the faulty plywood fence, cleared out thick vegetation that gave trespassers cover for their illicit activities, bet-

ter boarded up the first and second floors of the decaying mansion, and even fixed holes in the third floor and roof to keep vagrants out.

"The house still looks very unsettling, but at least it's safe

now," said architect Adam Kehr, who lives next door. "The windows are all boarded up, the underbrush is all cleared away, and the fence is back up. The crackhouse problem was solved."

# Greenpoint theft auto

## 94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint-Williamsburg

Three thugs carjacked a cab-

by on Sept. 25 and took his yellow taxi for a 25-block joyride.

The 42-year-old driver picked up two fares on Manhattan Avenue at around 10:30 pm and drove them to the corner Jackson Street and Kingsland Avenue.

That's where a third hoodlum emerged, and the three men pummeled the cabbie, who fled his vehicle as the crooks grabbed his \$75 and took off in his taxi.

## Hooligans

Poor sports made losers out of at least two McCarren Park soccer players this week. Here are the details.

A fubled felon snatched a soccer player's black leather wallet — which contained credit cards and \$900 — on Sept. 21 while the victim was on the field between 9:10 am and 9:50 am.

While another soccer fan was playing a week later, between 9 am and 9:45 am, crooks stole his wallet and keys — and drove off with the victim's gray Mazda sedan.

## Hipster heist

A hipster fashionista dugged a store clerk in the eye after grabbing a handful of hipster garments on Sept. 23.

The cotton-craving crook entered the store on North Sixth Street near Berry Street at around 8:30 pm and snatched seven articles of clothing — valued at \$134 — but when a 21-year-old employee tried to intervene, the goon punched him in the eye and fled from the shop.

# POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at  
BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

## Sneaky sneaks

Crooks stole 14 pairs of Nike sneakers from a van parked on Green Street early on Sept. 26.

The thieves broke into the truck, which was between Franklin Street and Manhattan Avenue, through the passenger's-side window between midnight and 5 am and grabbed the Swatches, as well as a box of socks, three boxes of shirts, the van's stereo and a Nintendo Wii system.

— Ben Muessig

## 90TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick

## Shooting looting

Two gun-toting crooks shot a 35-year-old man in the knee during a vicious Sept. 28 mugging.

The thugs punched the victim in the head as he walked past the corner of Marcy Avenue and Boroque Place on his way to a restaurant at around 11:30 pm.

"Give me your phone," one of the bandits said before firing at the victim.

The bad guys grabbed the victim's watch, bracelet and \$430 and drove off in a Nissan van.

## Knife-point!

A knife-wielding mugger tried to stab a 28-year-old woman during a brutal robbery on Devoe Street on Sept. 26.

The cruel crook — who was wearing an orange shirt at the

time of the attack — confronted his victim on the block between Lorimer and Leonard streets at around 9:45 pm.

"Give me your purse or I will kill you," he said before attempting to slash her across the stomach.

The stab was off target, and the victim — who escaped with just a scratch — handed over her purse, which contained a cellphone, credit cards, an ID, and \$10.

## Big Mac attack

Burglars raided a Union Avenue building overnight on Sept. 27, snatching Apple computers and flat-screen TVs from at least two apartments.

Thieves broke into the first apartment, which is between Stagg and Heves streets, and grabbed a Mac desktop and a 42-inch Sharp flat-screen TV between 9 pm and 3:30 am.

Two stories up, thieves made off with a similar bounty between 9 pm and 2 am. The crooks grabbed a flat-screen TV and a MacBook, cops said.

## Caper cracked

Cops caught a 44-year-old man suspected of snatching three copper cables from a Wallabout Street building on Sept. 27.

At around 1:15 pm, witnesses spotted the suspected bandit as he balanced on a ladder propped against the side of a building — which is between Wythe Avenue and Lynch Street — holding the golden copper wires.

Police caught him later that day.

## Crime partners

A teenaged Bonnie and Clyde put a gun to a deliveryman's head on Sept. 26 and stole his cell-phone and cash.

The criminal couple confronted the victim on Moore Street between Manhattan and Graham avenues at around 1:10 pm.

"Pay up, dame, tu dinero," one thug demanded while pointing the gun at his victim.

The deliveryman obliged, and handed over \$1,410 and his cell-phone.

## Side-punched?

Sidekicks are still in season among Billyburg thieves. Crooks snatched at least two of the fancy phones in separate assaults.

Two under-aged crooks punched and shoved a 15-year-old on Sept. 25, pushing him to the corner of Graham Avenue and Meserole Street at around 3:30 pm.

"Give me your phone," a pimply perp demanded between punches, before grabbing the phone from the victim's pocket.

Three thugs attacked a 36-year-old woman at the corner of Varet Street and Manhattan Avenue at around 5 pm on Sept. 26, pummeling her before grabbing her phone.

"Don't come around here again," one of cruel crooks said after the assault.

## Apple picking

A crook climbed through the rear window of an apartment on Grand Street, between Havemeyer Street and Marcy Avenue, on Sept. 17 and snatched an Apple laptop between 10:45 am and 2:30 pm.

— Ben Muessig

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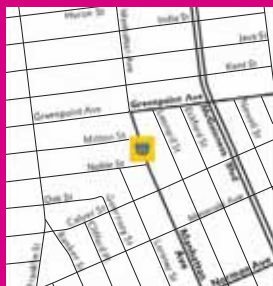
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# Crook runs from cops - and school kids



The parole office on Pierrepont Street at Clinton Street is across from St. Ann's School, which also has classes in the building.

**By Sarah Portlock**  
The Brooklyn Paper

Federal officials are scrambling to calm Brooklyn Heights parents after a wanted man bolted from a controversial parole office at the corner of Pierrepont and Clinton streets and sent gun-toting cops scrambling in hot pursuit moments before classes at the St. Ann's School let out for the day.

Since July, the private school has shared space with a federal parole office in the Bruce Ratner-owned One Pierrepont Plaza building — and parents have continued to express concern

that parolees and their kids should not be mingling so closely.

Those fears were realized on Sept. 23, when an ex-con, who was wanted in a separate assault case, showed up for his scheduled parole appointment only to find two plainclothes officers waiting for him.

The felon, sensing the sting, raced out of the building with one officer in hot pursuit. A third officer briefly reached into his jacket — possibly to pull his service pistol, though the gun was never out in the open, a witness said.

Meanwhile, the ex-con, who is on parole after serving out a drug-related

charge, jumped into a getaway car and has not yet been found.

"This is exactly the type of incident that St. Ann's administrators and parents were continually assured had never, and would never, happen at the probation office," said St. Ann's headmaster Lawrence Weiss. "Nor did we have any reason to expect that a major security breach, followed by an armed chase, would take place within weeks of the opening of the new office."

To calm Heights and school parents' fears, federal officials hastily changed the nature of the parole office, which was "precreated this summer to consolidate two existing parole offices nearby,

one on Livingston Street in Downtown and Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights.

Now registered sex offenders will no longer meet their parole officers in the building, and instead have their appointments at the courthouse on Cadman Plaza East, said the court's chief probation officer, Tony Garoppolo.

"The move probably wouldn't have happened until January, but [the judge] speeded it up as an accommodation to St. Ann's people," Garoppolo said. "It doesn't make Pierrepont Street any safer than it already is, but it's just to ease the understandable anxiety of parents."

Garoppolo said he could not comment on the incident itself because it is currently under investigation.

When the center opened, Chief Judge Raymond Dearie had told parents that there had never been any parole office-related incidents at the Brooklyn Heights or Downtown offices, and promised that the criminals would enter in different doors from the students and that sexual offenders would not be in the building at the same time as students.

But detectives have long viewed parole appointments as an opportune time to arrest parolees with new arrest warrants because the alleged criminals will show up at a certain time and are typically unarmed.

## DUMBO the right thing for Spike



Spike Lee on the set of "Inside Man" in 2006 with Clive Owen. The director is moving to DUMBO.

**By Sarah Portlock**  
The Brooklyn Paper

Acclaimed local film-maker Spike Lee will set up an annex of his famed "40 Acres and a Mule" film company in DUMBO.

"Spike Lee is coming to 45 Washington Street in DUMBO," a spokeswoman for Two Trees Management, the David Walentas-owned company that owns half the neighborhood, told The Brooklyn Paper.

Lee's search for real estate in DUMBO was first reported by New York Magazine. "It's no wonder Lee was seeking new space. Earlier this year, the 'Malcolm X' director claimed that high rents had forced him out of his main office space at 124

DeKalb Ave., where he had been for 22 years, and into a smaller space he already owned around the corner on South Elliott Place.

"Got priced out, the rent raise was insane," Lee told The Brooklyn Paper in April.

The director, who gave Brooklyn the starring role in his signature films "Do the Right Thing," "Crooklyn" and "Jungle Fever," affirmed that he still had a working and personal relationship with the borough in the April interview — though he now lives in Manhattan.

The building, where he will now work out of the corner of Washington and First streets, is one of DUMBO's best addresses (the office of

The Brooklyn Paper is also in the building). Workers are currently building out a sunlit-filled, spacious corner area in the building's sixth floor, which, according to city records, is undergoing a \$300,000 renovation.

Walentas is well known in DUMBO for being a hard-nosed developer as well as a patron of the arts. He frequently gives rent subsidies to artists — though it is unclear whether the millionaire Lee was the recipient of Walentas's largesse.

Lee had converted his earlier 3,775-square-foot space on DeKalb Avenue from a firehouse to a studio, and now the real-estate firm CinHabitu is marketing the building as a duplex for a cool \$4.9 million.



Spike Lee moved out of this converted firehouse on DeKalb Avenue in Fort Greene earlier this year.

## Down on Main Street

As the economic crisis ravages the nation, all anyone wants to know is what the folks on "Main Street" think of it. But which "Main Street" are our congressional leaders talking about? We headed to Brooklyn's actual Main Street — in DUMBO — to get the mood of our borough's symbolic heartland. Here's what we heard:

— Interviews and photos by Evan Gardner



"I'm concerned on a personal level, for my family and for my investments. I'm worrying. Should I put my money in my mattress or let it ride?"

— Blake Smith



"Things are not fair in this neck of the woods. The people who benefit from this are dread awful, overpaid, and overcompensated. None here gets anything in return."

— Dan D.



"I think [Democratic congressional leaders] Barney Frank and Chris Dodd should resign. They've gotten loads of money from lobbyists and this whole thing is their fault."

— John Chichester



"I'm a freelancer, so I'm really concerned. When they talk about the bailout plan, I want to know what effect it will have on the little guy."

— John Sanvidge

## PARK CARS...

Continued from page 1

But biking advocates — who are calling for a three-month no-car test period to measure air quality, traffic volume and crash rates — argue that traffic won't be a problem.

"Whenever Prospect Park has gotten more car-free hours, the same people have said that the sky is falling and here we are a generation later and the sky hasn't fallen," said Transportation Alternatives spokesman Wiley Norvell. "But that hasn't happened yet. Just because you restrict automotive traffic on one artery doesn't mean that every single car will turn out on adjacent roads — that's not the way traffic works."

This most recent flare-up in

the war between bikers, walkers and motorists comes after calling for a three-month no-car test period to measure air quality, traffic volume and crash rates — argue that traffic won't be a problem.

"Whenever Prospect Park has gotten more car-free hours, the same people have said that the sky is falling and here we are a generation later and the sky hasn't fallen," said Transportation Alternatives spokesman Wiley Norvell. "But that hasn't happened yet. Just because you restrict automotive traffic on one artery doesn't mean that every single car will turn out on adjacent roads — that's not the way traffic works."

This most recent flare-up in

and drivers aren't expecting to encounter each other along the leafy drive — where Park Slope resident Rachel Fruchter was killed in 1997 after colliding with a van in a section of the loop that was supposed to be car free.

Despite the calls from Transportation Alternatives — who said that 90 percent of cars in the park exceed the speed limit of 30 miles per hour (some times reaching speeds of 50 miles per hour) — both the pro-bike crowd and the concerned community groups might be spinning their wheels in vain.

"We extended the hours of the park's closure to vehicles last year, but we have no plans for a complete closure

that limiting cars would make the park safer because in the current hours, walkers, cyclists

## D'TOWN...

Continued from page 1

being struck by a biker who had the green light, cops said. In 2007, 136 pedestrians and 23 bikers were killed in the city's streets — down from historic highs, but 159 too many, virtually everyone agrees.

The roadway from Dean Street to Tillary Street had technically been a "bike route," meaning that bicycles theoretically had as much right to the street as cars, with both having to share one lane of traffic. To both drivers and bikers, the city's role amounted to little more than a suggestion.

The promotion to full "bike lane" status means that markings will now be physically painted on the street to indicate, accord-

ing to state law, that the lane is intended for the "preferential or exclusive use of bicycles."

"I think it's excellent," said Quynh, who bikes to work on Smith Street every day.

"Cars don't respect the lanes, and they park wherever they want. The traffic cops don't care."

Gary Wenger, who has been biking in Brooklyn for 17 years, sees greater hostility between bikers and cars than ever before. "I'm glad to see this new bike lane. ... I've had too many close calls with cars," he said. "I think it's horrible about the people who were killed in the past few weeks."

Most bikers seem to appreciate the new lane, but the support was far from universal.

"This street is too narrow," said one two-wheeler. "It just seems insane to put a bike lane here. There's barely enough room for trucks to pass as it is."

The bike lanes on Smith and Jay streets are part of a larger project that includes Schermerhorn and Hoyt streets, and whose goal would be to connect the main thoroughfares of Tillary and Jay streets to the existing bike lanes on Dean and Bergen streets, said a spokesman for the Department of Transportation.

Another projected route on Myrtle Avenue would bring a total of 1.7 miles of new bike lanes to Downtown between Sept. 29 and the second week of October, the latest pieces of a multi-year city push to paint more bike lanes.

Community leaders said the new bike paths are an improvement over the existing, and frequently blocked, bike lane on Adams Street.

"Police don't prevent cars from parking in the bike lane on Adams Street, [so] the lane essentially does not exist," said Community Board 2 District Manager Rob Peris. "As we have seen in the last few weeks, biking can be a very dangerous proposition. This is one of the most popular bike routes in all of Brooklyn, so the new lane is a big improvement."

## MAIN ST...

Continued from page 1

ance showroom, said she's not worried, but when she admitted that she actually lives in New Jersey, I sensed an opening. When I remarked about the high-quality of all the flat-top ranges, stainless steel appliances and absolutely silent dishwashers for sale, Clause said I was welcome to test out anything on the floor.

Yet when I asked her if I could come in with a full load of laundry, you know, given the state of the economy, she balked.

"I don't think it will come to that," she said.

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# The Brooklyn Paper PARENT

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## Great Depression or little

So it's the old "what do you tell your kids when bad things happen" thing all over again. The recent Wall Street meltdown and the subsequent cries of doom and gloom about the nation's economy are pretty scary for any kid paying attention. How do you explain it without making your kid feel really, really scared?

Truthfully, Smartmom has become a bit of a pro at explaining scary world news because, frankly, there's been so much of it during OSFO and Teen Spirit's childhood.

The 2000 election, 9-11, the Iraq War, subway bombings in Spain and London, terrorism throughout the world, Abu Ghraib—the list is long. And now this.

Indeed, Teen Spirit and the Oh So Feisty One are coming of age during dark times in our nation's history. It's not exactly consoling to tell them that they're living through important historical events. Sept. 11 is, of course, a defining moment in OSFO and Teen Spirit's childhood. If Teen Spirit and OSFO didn't completely understand what was happening on that day, they were aware that thousands of people had died, that children in the neighborhood lost their parents, and that the sky



By Louise Crawford

over Brooklyn was raining tiny pieces of paper for days. Since then, they have heard about it over and over again.

OSFO, who was only 4 at the time, was home with Smartmom because her pre-school was set to open the next day. Teen Spirit was in his fifth-grade classroom at PS 321.

When the first plane hit, Smartmom was in the kitchen listening to the radio wondering why a private plane would do something so stupid as to fly into the World Trade Center. But when the second plane hit, and it dawned on her that New York was being attacked, Smartmom tried to quell her own panic so that OSFO wouldn't catch it.

So what did she do: she polished OSFO's nails while she listened to the radio. The smell of the nail polish calmed her as did this simple act of normalcy.

Later, she called her fa-

ther and step-mother whose apartment has a view of Lower Manhattan and listened to their panicked cries as they watched the buildings fall. At the time, Smartmom didn't have a TV—an ear-

nest attempt to limit television viewing. So Smartmom and OSFO went downstairs where Mr. and Mrs. Kravitz were, of course, watching the events live on their huge television set.

OSFO and the Kravitz children saw the images of the towers falling again and again. But what OSFO remembers most is that the Kravitz's split screen television showed the Power Puff Girls and the terrible events at the same time.

"I just remember wishing we were watching the Power Puff Girls instead of the towers falling," OSFO told Smartmom recently.

In the weeks after 9-11, Smartmom read cogent advice from Mr. Rogers on his Web site: "Children sense when their parents are really worried, whether they're watching the news or talking about it with others. No matter what children

know about a crisis, it's especially scary for them to realize that their parents are scared."

Well, OSFO certainly saw her mom scared and talking about it over and over again on that day. Now Smartmom understands how important it is to limit television viewing during such a crisis.

"Our children need us to spend time with them—away from the frightening images on the screen," Mr. Rogers wrote.

"Focus attention on the helpers, like the police, firemen, doctors, nurses, paramedics and volunteers. It's reassuring to know there are many caring people who are doing all they can to help in this world."

During 9-11 it was easy to focus on the heroism of the firefighters who risked their lives to help others. This time, not so much, what with all the lack of leadership coming from our elected leaders.

So how should we tell the children about the worst financial crisis (potentially) in history? OSFO heard that there was going to be another Depression and it really freaked her out (not that she knows what the Depression even is, though living with Smartmom, she's

heard plenty about depression). True, in fifth grade, she studied the Depression and knew all about unemployment, fire-side chats, and breadlines. But after that, it gets vague.

So Smartmom assured her that we wouldn't be living on the street or eating at a soup kitchen, no matter how bad it gets (though she did not tell the child that she was lying about that last bit). She did tell her that the economy was in trouble but that people with lot of expertise were going to solve the problem (OK, so she lied again).

Teen Spirit has been following the situation much more closely. But still, like any kid, he wants to be reassured.

"We're going to be OK," Smartmom told him and that seemed to help.

Times like these, it's important to listen to your kids and answer their questions in an age-appropriate way.

It's also a good time to give them extra comfort and physical affection. Finally, it's important for Smartmom to remember to take her Zoloft and not drink too much of Hepcat's El Pico coffee. She must stay calm even if she is scared out of her wits.

No need to worry the children.

## Meet these horses? Why, of courses

Old age has not been kind to you critic. Suffering as I do from osteoporosis, that pernicious bone-wasting disease, I have lost more weight over the last 30 years than I can Cruise over had. I don't want to burden you, dear loyal reader, but I am virtually half the man I used to be.

So it is any wonder that I find myself intoxicated by the two new miniature horses at the Prospect Park Zoo?

Abe and Bogie are their names and you'll never meet a more playful pair of equine rascals. More importantly, they're the perfect height for this shrinking octogenarian critic and the 10-year-olds who can't seem to get enough of them.

My great-granddaughter, who loves Aggie the cow, didn't even pay the bovine any mind the other day when she accompanied me to the zoo on my fact-finding mission. She couldn't keep her eyes off the "little horses" (cute kids).

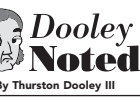
See, Abe and Bogie aren't ponies, who grow up into big horses and then leave us for greener pastures. And they aren't mules, those beast and children in the animal kingdom, who can't even reproduce.

Abe and Bogie are miniature horses! I call them equine caliballs, but I was always a good Latin student. Yes, I've heard the special slurs—"Piny horses," "Hidjet ponies," and, the worst, "Equi-hogs"—but I don't care. Miniature horses are not ponies, which have different proportions to horses. Miniature horses are like the real thing only smaller (I vaguely recall one of my ex-

wives using the term to describe me once). I was lucky enough to spend a few minutes with Abe and Bogie the other day in the barnyard area of the zoo and found them to be delightful—and certainly a heck of a lot more "person" able than that damn Jacob's Four-Horned Sheep or that half-blind goat who always bites my great-granddaughter when she tries to feed him.

If I wasn't a vegetarian...! And the best part about Abe (who is pictured below) and Bogie, is that their relationship is so out of the norm.

Yes, theirs is a forbidden love



By Thurston Dooley III

that seems to know no bounds. They nuzzle. They play. They cavort. They feed each other alfalfa.

OK, they don't actually feed each other hay, but they do almost everything else.

Best of all, Abe and Bogie come to us from the Bronx Zoo, which means we in Brooklyn can brag about yet more urban rascals who ended up in our fair borough.

Abe and Bogie at the Prospect Park Zoo (enter on Flatbush Avenue just north of Em-

pire Boulevard). Admission is \$6 (adults), \$2.25 (seniors), \$2 (kids 3-12); free (kids under 3). The zoo is open 10 am-5 pm on weekdays and until 5:30 pm on weekends through Nov. 4. For info, call (718) 399-7339 or visit www.prospectparkzoo.com.

Thurston Dooley III has been reviewing puppet theater, juggling and mime for more than three decades. He is a member of the International Puppetry Hall of Fame (writer's wing) and is editor emeritus of Modern Marionette magazine.

**FAMILY CALENDAR**  
Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

**SATURDAY, OCT. 4**  
10 am and 11:30 am: Chocolate Chip Chamber Music. Old First Reformed Church 1102 Seventh Ave. between Second and Third avenues in Park Slope. \$7 cash; only. Call (718) 638-8300 for info.  
11 am and 2 pm: Make art and learn how artists use color. Brooklyn Museum 200 Eastern Parkway at Washington Avenue. Free for kids 12 and under. Call (718) 638-5000 for info.  
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Hansel and Gretel." Puppetworks 338 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope. \$7 kids, \$8 adults. Call (718) 965-3391 for info.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 5**  
11 am and 2 pm: Make art. See Sat. Oct. 4.  
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Hansel and Gretel." See Sat. Oct. 4.  
4 pm: Chocolate Chip Chamber Music. See Sat. Oct. 4.

**MONDAY, OCT. 6**  
9:30 am-11:30 am: Indoor activities include hoops, tunnels, coloring, balls and books. \$10 per family. Brooklyn Arts Exchange 421 Fifth Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope. Call (718) 832-0018 for info.  
3:30 pm: Bilingual story time and a crafts activity. Brooklyn Public Library's Carroll Gardens branch 396 Clinton St. (718) 966-6972.  
11 am Sing along: The Movie Spot 81 Atlantic Ave. at Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights. Free. Call (718) 923-9710 for info.

**FRIDAY, OCT. 10**  
3 pm: Free admission at the New York Aquarium (West Eighth Street and Surf Avenue in Coney Island). Call (718) 265-FISH for info.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 11**  
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Hansel and Gretel." See Sat. Oct. 4.  
1-4 pm: On-camera commercial workshop for kids 7 to 14 years. \$75. Creative Arts Studio 1010 Atlantic Ave. between Smith and Hoyt streets in Boerum Hill. Call (212) 479-6480 for info.  
11:30 am: Seining on the beach at Brooklyn Bridge Park. Catch and release the fish which live under the Manhattan Bridge. Free. Brooklyn Bridge Park (enter park at New Dock and Main street). Reservations necessary. Call (718) 782-0603, ext. 18. For info visit: www.brooklyn-bridgepark.org.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 12**  
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Hansel and Gretel." See Sat. Oct. 4.  
2 pm: The Juniper Juniper Show with music by Uncle Rock. \$10, \$8 kids under 12 and low income. Brooklyn Arts Exchange 421 Fifth Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope. Call (718) 832-0018 for info.

To list your event, e-mail information to Calendar@BrooklynPaper.com.



## Soggy 'muffins

It's officially the Halloween season, thanks to the annual Ragamuffin Parade last Saturday in Bay Ridge. The next day, Bay Ridge threw its annual fall party—the Third Avenue Festival.



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# WHERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

**SATURDAY**  
October 4

**Look, it's free**

Just because you're worried about the economy doesn't mean you can't have fun. Tonight, head to the Brooklyn Museum for the monthly "First Saturday" freebie featuring art, dance parties, movies, lectures, artist talks — and your first chance to see the new "Gilbert and George" show (pictured).

5-11 pm. Brooklyn Museum  
200 Eastern Parkway at Flatbush Avenue. (718) 638-5000. Visit [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org) for complete info.

**SUNDAY**  
October 5

**Antic behavior**

Yes, most street fairs are only good if you need sweatsocks or a zepole. But the Atlantic Antic — now in its 34th year — is the real deal. All day, hundreds of Moms and Pops turn Atlantic Avenue into a long Brooklyn bazaar with nary a generic vendor in site.

10 am-6 pm. Atlantic Avenue from Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights to Fourth Avenue in Boerum Hill. For info, visit [www.atlanticave.org/](http://www.atlanticave.org/) or [antic2008.antic2008.htm](http://antic2008.antic2008.htm).

**MONDAY**  
October 6

**You write the songs**

Hey, songwriters: Get off your butt and upload your best song in the fifth annual Williamsburg Live Songwriter Competition by midnight tonight — and you may win \$4,000. If you're among the best 150 songs submitted, you'll get a chance to play live for the judges next month. But it all starts with an upload. Get on it.

11:59 pm. Williamsburg Live Songwriter Competition. Upload your song at [www.wisc2008.com](http://www.wisc2008.com).

**FRIDAY**  
October 10

**'Cherry' darling**

First, she was the stage manager on our editor's Fringe Fest hit, "SUV: The Musical," but now Hollie Rosenberg is back with her own comedy, "Spoiled Cherries," which asks "When does childhood end?" For us, it ends when "SUV: The Musical" is snubbed by Broadway. Rosenberg has a different take.

8 pm. Narrows Community Theater at Salem Lutheran Church 450 67th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Bay Ridge. (718) 482-3173. Tickets are \$15, \$12 seniors.

**SATURDAY**  
October 11

**Put yourself in Hoch**

We knew Danny Hoch back in the days when he would do monologues for five people in the Bronx. But now the one-man-showman will present "Taking Over," a nine-character "assault" on gentrification in Williamsburg — for free. Assault or not, Hoch bills the show as a comic romp through one Brooklyn block.

8 pm. 850 Grand St. between Bushwick Avenue and Old Street in Bushwick. Visit [www.hth.org](http://www.hth.org) or call (718) 497-4282 to reserve a free ticket.

# NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

**SAT., OCT. 4**

**OUTDOORS**

**BIRDING INTRO:** Noon to 1:30 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center (enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 297-3400). Free.

**BIRDO AND BIRDO:** Trip to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. 9 am to 1 pm. Meet at Grand Army Plaza Memorial Arch at Prospect Park. Info at [www.jaybirding.org](http://www.jaybirding.org). Free.

**ANGELS AND ACCORDIANS:** Historical walking tour and performance featuring live music and dance. Noon. Green-Wood Cemetery 97th Avenue and 25th Street in Sunset Park. (718) 788-7850. Free.

**GREEN GARDEN:** Visit Green Community Garden as part of American Solar Energy Society's Annual Green Buildings Tour. 10 am-4 pm. Sixth Avenue at 15th Street in Park Slope. (718) 768-8161. For info visit [www.ecoportal.org](http://www.ecoportal.org). Free.

**BROOKLYN BY BUS:** A Slice of Brooklyn Bus Tours offers a four-hour guided tour to classic Brooklyn neighborhoods, landmarks, points of interest and famous movie locations. \$45. 10:30 am. Meeting location is in South Street Seaport, lower Manhattan. For complete info visit [www.alicedbrooklyn.com](http://www.alicedbrooklyn.com).

**BOAT TOUR:** See Prospect Park's Lullwater aboard the electric boat Independence. \$6. \$3 kids under 12. Boats leave between 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue or Flatbush Avenue and Empire Boulevard. (718) 297-3400.

**OPEN HOUSE NEW YORK:** As part of a city-wide open house event, Pison Shops Murty's Monument is open. Free. 10 am-3 pm. Fort Greene Visitor Center (at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park). Visit [www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers) or call 311 and ask for the Urban Park Rangers.

**PERFORMANCE**

**CONTEMPORARY DANCE:** Site-specific dance in historic sites. 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. 212-625-3555. Visit [www.dancingintheatre.org](http://www.dancingintheatre.org) for mystery location. Free.

**MUSIC:** Chris Lind Trio. 3 pm and 4 pm. Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition (499 Van Brunt St., south of Reed Street in Red Hook). For info visit [www.earecords.com](http://www.earecords.com). Free.

**MEDIEVAL SCANDINAVIAN MUSIC:** Concert features Pro Musica Antiqua Oslo. \$15. 6:30 pm. Christ Church Bay Ridge (7301 Ridge Blvd. at 73rd Street. (718) 748-5950).

**SHAKESPEARE'S "THE TEMPEST":** \$12. 510 seniors, 55 students. 2 pm and 3:30 pm. Germain Theater at Brooklyn College 2900 Bedford Avenue, near Avenue H in Flatbush. (718) 951-4500.

**DANCE, "A QUARRELING PAIR":** Next Wave Festival presents Bill T. Jones and The Arnie Zane Dance Company in a dream-like dance-theater piece. \$55. \$40. \$20. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music 30 Lafayette Ave., at St. Felix.

**8th Precinct stationhouse** 65 Sixth Avenue, at Bergen Street. 6:30 pm. Call (718) 643-3027 for info.

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 8**

**Community Board 7.** On the agenda: Budget for 2010 and two liquor license applications. Board office (4201 Fourth Ave., at 42nd Street in Sunset Park). 6:30 pm. Call (718) 854-0003.

**90th Precinct Community Council.** Monthly meeting. 30 Montrose Avenue, between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street, in Williamsburg. 7:30 pm. Call (718) 963-5309 for info.

**Political debate.** Candidates for city state and federal offices will debate at 9 am at the Fort Hamilton Senior Center (100th Street at Fort Hamilton Parkway). Call (718) 748-3581 for info.

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail [Newsroom@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Newsroom@BrooklynPaper.com).

**THURSDAY, OCT. 9**

**Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Association.** Monthly meeting. Hansel Senesh school (242 Smith St., between First and Second places). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 858-4699 for info.

**Community Board 6 Executive, Budget and Communication Development committees.** On the agenda: Budget for 2010. Cobble Hill Community Room (230 Baltic St., between Court and Clinton streets). 6:30 pm. Call (718) 643-3027 for info.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 7**

**Boerum Hill Association.** Bishop Mugar Center (155 Dean St., between Hoyt and Bond streets). 7 pm. Call (718) 768-2425 for info.

**72nd Precinct Community Council.**

**Monthly meeting.** Marien Heim Center (4520 Fourth Ave., at 45th Street. Sunset Park). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 965-6311 for info.

**76th Precinct Community Council.** Monthly meeting. 76th Precinct stationhouse (191 Union St., between Henry and Hicks streets in Carroll Gardens). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 634-3211.

**Community Education Council District 20.** Monthly meeting. P5 176 (1225 69th St., at 12th Avenue in Dyker Heights). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 759-3921 for info.

**Community Board 2.** Monthly board meeting. Polytechnic Institute (5 Metrotech Center, Jay Street and Myrtle Avenue Promenade). 6 pm. Call (718) 596-5410 for info.

**Community Board 6.** Monthly meeting.

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# Ring the 'Bell'

*Bklyn nightlife scene expands to the banks of the Gowanus Canal*

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

The boys from Floyd and Union Hall have done it again. The proprietors of the popular Atlantic Avenue and Union Street bocce bars have expanded their fledgling nightlife empire close to the murky banks of the Gowanus Canal with the Bell House, a music venue that opened last Thursday on Seventh Street between — get this! — Second and Third avenues.

Patrons will notice the décor is similar to the previous ventures of the upstart owners.

"It's not unlike Union Hall [in Park Slope] or Floyd," said William Crane, the Bell House's general manager. "It's very old-timey, it looks like something out of 'Deadwood,' a bourbon-soaked Western on HBO."

They blended the look with a rockers' vibe, which was a natural match given the coarse language and hard drinking favored by some rock stars.

They even named their cocktails named after seminal indie albums, such as a Pinkerton, a pinesapple, mango vodka, bracer with seltzer and cranberry juice (it's also a record by Weezer, but you knew that).

The venue has a large performance space for live music or comedy, like Union Hall. But unlike its sister saloon, which was hammered by neighbors for allegedly being too noisy, Bell House will probably not receive such complaints.



Classic joint: The owners of Floyd, a Brooklyn Heights bar, have now opened the Bell House, a music and drinking venue on Seventh Street between Second and Third Avenue. (Above) Co-owner William Crane, pulls a pint in front of a classic Hudson River School painting. (Top) The Mugs perform.

"We're in the industrial Gowanus. It's the best of both worlds. We're a block from the subway, but there's not a neighbor to complain," said Crane.

The Bell House (148 Seventh St., between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus) is open seven days a week from 4 pm–4 am. Call (718) 643-6510 for info.

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## Dish it out

*Casserole cookbook could bring back a classic*

By Elyssa Pachico  
for The Brooklyn Paper

For Missouri native Emily Farris, a casserole is more than just a bland tuna-and-cheese dish served mainly at Sunday school potluck dinners. And thanks to her new cookbook, "Casserole Crazy," it can be that way for you, too.

Dump the canned veggies and replace them with fresh ingredients, she says in the debut cookbook. Then, what you have is a time-saving meal that is both comfort food on the cheap and — dare we say it? — sophisticated and tasty dinner dish.

"For me it's all about food that offers comfort," said Farris, a Williamsburg resident. "You can get as fancy as you want for with food, but if it doesn't taste good, it's pointless."

With 125 recipes that range from "The Greenpoint" (Polish sausage, portobello mushrooms and sauerkraut with cream of mushroom soup) to a "Kansas City Masterpiece" (BBQ sauce with chicken breasts and pasta), Farris treats casseroles as a meeting between skinny-jeaned Williamsburg and the wide-hipped Midwest. It's a vegan-friendly fare meets carb-heavy comfort food: gorgonzola meets Cheese Whiz.

"Not only did I want recipes made with food that you like, I wanted recipes that were in some way accessible for everyone," said Farris, who compiled recipes from nearly 50 cookbooks ranging from 1920 to 1990, and also asked friends and families for favorites.

Farris said she grew up eating a "meat and potatoes" diet in Missouri, where "vegans might as well have purple faces and two noses."

So it was with some trepidation that she first dared to create an updated version of her beloved Aunt Susie's classic Tuna Noodle casserole for her "sophisticated sushi-eating friends." In addition to throwing in artichoke hearts, Farris replaced Aunt Susie's traditional Cheese Whiz with real parmesan.



"The first time I served a casserole at a party, I was a little hesitant," said Farris, who once worked for The Brooklyn Paper. "But a food snob friend got really excited about it and he ended up eating it straight from the Pyrex dish. That's when I knew I was onto something."

That "something" quickly evolved into an annual casserole competition, which will celebrate its fourth anniversary on Nov. 10 at Greenpoint's brunch hotspot Brooklyn Label.

Last year's contest saw 60 entrants competing in teams of two, along with a healthy share of not-so-healthy casseroles.

"There was one made with Jack Daniel's," Farris said. "I don't know if it was the best, but it was definitely the most creative."

For those eager to enter their concoctions in this year's contest (by registering at [www.casserolecrazy.com](http://www.casserolecrazy.com)), Farris has a few words of advice.

"Keep it simple," she said. "Stick with food that you know. People try to get too complicated, and that's not what a casserole is supposed to be about."

Farris hopes that both foodies and the "domestically challenged" alike will be seduced by the cookbook, which is out next week, with recipes like her own personal favorite, the mac-and-corn update "Seduction."

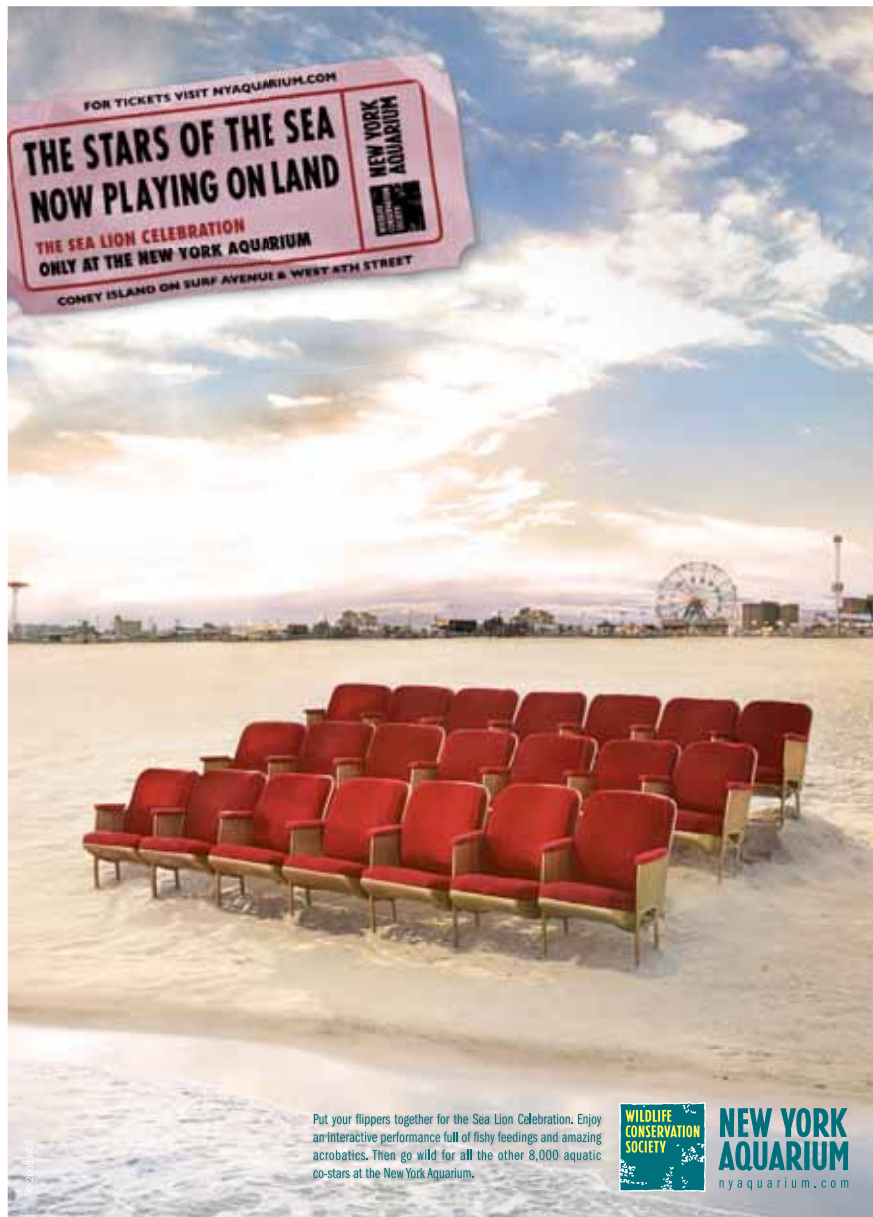
"It's a book for people who like to eat," she said. "It's not a book for people who like to show off with their food. If you want to impress people with fancy meat or hard to find vegetables, this is not the book for you."

### Chicken, Cheddar and Sun-dried Tomato Casserole

Serves four

- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 tbs olive oil
- 1 lb chicken breast, cubed
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper
- 2 cups portobello mushrooms, finely chopped
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 8 oz sun-dried tomatoes, finely chopped
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded

Preheat oven to 350. In a skillet over medium heat, sauté the onions in the olive oil until the onions are translucent. Add the chicken and cook. Add the cayenne pepper and a dash of salt and pepper. Reduce heat and add the mushrooms. Allow to simmer for three minutes, stirring occasionally. In a mixing bowl, mix the egg, chicken broth and some salt and pepper. When mixed, add in the cooked chicken and onions. Add the sun-dried tomatoes and all but a quarter-cup of the cheese. Stir and transfer to a greased or buttered baking dish. Cover with half the remaining cheese. Bake uncovered for 40 minutes to one hour, until bubbly and golden on top. Remove, cover with the remainder of the cheese and bake for 10 more minutes.



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# Debate over Gowanus 'Toll' houses ends in stalemate

**By Mike McLaughlin**  
The Brooklyn Paper

The battle for the soul of the Gowanus ended in a stalemate.

Following three hours of heated exchanges on Thursday

night about a plan by Toll Brothers to build hundreds of units of market- and below-market rate apartments on two blocks overlooking the infamous waterway, Community Board 6's Land Use Committee chose to neither sup-

port nor oppose the project.

The hearing was the first benchmark towards a ruling on whether Toll Brothers, a development company most known for suburban McMansions, but also for Williamsburg's North-

side Piers high-rise, can get a zoning change to build its 447-unit complex along the canal between Carroll, Second and Bond streets. That project, supporters say, is the first step in the transformation of the Gowanus from a post-industrial backwater to the residential bridge between Carroll Gardens and Park Slope.

Proponents of Toll's plans, which also call for a 40-foot wide esplanade alongside the occasionally stinky channel, commercial business, believe it will spur the city and state to clean up the environmental mess left behind from the area's manufacturing heyday.

"The city and state don't care about the canal, because there's no constituency there," said committee member Debra Scott, which is why she thinks the nearly 450 new units — with plenty more voters living inside of them — will be a catalyst for a

larger neighborhood cleanup.

Other supporters, many of them unionized workers, applauded Toll's bid on the grounds that it would create jobs for organized labor and up to 140 rental units of sub-market-rate housing.

But the opponents argued that the buildings, which would rise

up to 12 stories along the canal, are too big. They also said that an influx of new residents could complicate a full-scale remediation effort and overwhelm the taxed sewer infrastructure, which dumps raw waste in the canal during heavy rains.

"We need more environmental

safeguards," said Roy Sloane, a Land Use Committee member.

Sloane put up a resolution calling on CB6 to oppose the Toll request for a rezoning — but his committee colleagues voted down that resolution.

The committee's failure to reach a verdict aggravated some

neighbors.

"They should have come to a decision," said Steven Miller. "This is important. They're wasting our time."

The Land Use Committee will revisit the proposal at its Oct. 30 meeting (location to be determined).



Toll Brothers want to develop this site along the Gowanus Canal (as seen from the Carroll Street bridge), but the community can't decide if it will allow the zoning change necessary to make it happen.

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## Ikea trims shuttle, ferry

**By Mike McLaughlin**  
The Brooklyn Paper

Ikea will slash the free water-taxi and shuttle bus service that it provides to help mitigate traffic at its Red Hook store.

The Swedish home furnishing giant said demand had slackened after Labor Day for the gridlocked to a Manhattan pier and nearby Brooklyn subway stations.

Under the new schedule, which went into effect on Oct. 1, a water-taxi will cruise the East River every 40 minutes from 1 to 9 pm on weekdays — down from 10

am to 10 pm. The weekend timetable remains 10 am to 10 pm.

The store also shaved its controversial shuttle bus service to the Borough Hall, Smith-Ninth and Fourth Avenue subway stations. On weekdays, stragglers will be able to get a lift every half hour from 1 to 9 pm, down from departures every 15 minutes from 10 am to 10 pm.

"We have been monitoring ridership and have determined since summer has ended, this approach represents the most efficient fall schedule," store manager Mike Baker said.

The announcement came two weeks after store officials discussed the effects of a bustling Ikea on traffic in Red Hook and surrounding neighborhoods at a Community Board 6 meeting in Long Island College Hospital on Sept. 11.

Some people pleaded with the Odin of home décor not to reduce the free transit.

"It's really hard to get in and out of the neighborhood on public transit," said Manisha Tratter, a Red Hook resident.

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## HEALTH, MIND & BODY

### Lutheran lectures on health, spirit

**Lutheran HealthCare**

Lutheran HealthCare will host its fourth annual Health and Spirituality Lecture on Friday, Oct. 10, from 2 to 3:30 pm at Lutheran Medical Center's main campus, 150 55th St. in Sunset Park.

The annual event, hosted by Lutheran HealthCare, a nationally recognized leader in religiously informed cultural competence, explores the relationships between spirituality, health and healing.

"Lutheran is fully committed to serving the whole person; mind, body and spirit," said Rev. Don Stiger, senior vice president for Mission and Spiritual Care. "This means understanding and actualizing the vital interconnections of health and spirituality, providing pastoral care and education, promoting religiously informed cultural competency and growing faithful health partnerships with community congregations of all types."

Lutheran HealthCare's cultural competence program was designed with an understanding of how knowledge of cultural differences contributes to better health care. Facilities now include prayer rooms, chapels, mosques, multilingual staff and directional signage. The medical center offers one of the area's first dedicated Chinese health care units and a wide variety of menu options. In its faith based mission, Lutheran HealthCare serves a one-of-a-kind community of diverse faith groups throughout southwest Brooklyn.

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## OUR OPINION

# A death in the family

When newspaper people gather these days, topic number one is how we're not supposed to be "newspaper people" anymore.

We're media people. Information providers. Facilitators. The term "news" is still OK, of course, but our industry experts tell us that we need to stop using "paper" as a suffix.

That was what we heard over the past few days in Seattle, where we attended the annual conference of the Independent Free Press of America.

First, the good news: We walked away with a several honors, including first place for column writing (our Editor Gersh Kuntzman's Brooklyn Angle) and front page design (under the cool hand of Senior Editor Vince DiMichele). And we were one of three finalists for best newspaper in the nation.

We also won first place as the best Internet site (designed by our Webmaster Sylvan Migdal) — proof that we're not only a paper after all.

Now, the bad news: The worry at the conference was about how newspapers may be-

come a thing of the past, and that the Web is not quite ready to take over. Traditional news gathering, which has always been print's greatest strength, still cannot be supported by the economics of the online world, where the most profitable news Web sites are merely aggregators of, and commentators on, reports generated by print reporters.

Such talk left an especially bitter taste, given this week's closure of The New York Sun.

Regardless of your political bent, the right-leaning Sun was a unique news product in this day and age: it was a great newspaper, published by a group of old-fashioned newspaper men and women of the sort we remember from when we got into the business. And it was a paper that stood against the current vogue that the print product is inherently inferior to Web sites, TV stations and all the blather on cable news.

The Sun's Seth Lipsky and Ira Stoll and their crew brought a hard-news sensibility to a daily newspaper business gone soft. More than that, they brought competition

— at least on the news side — to the fading New York Times.

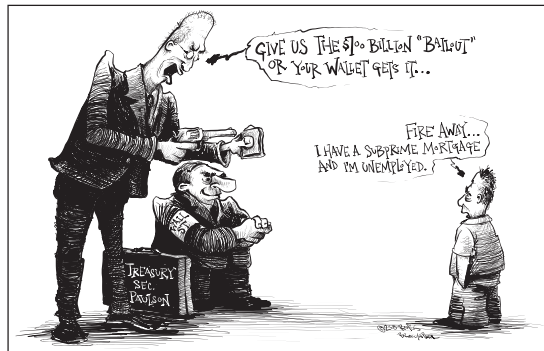
Indeed, next week, the Times, which revolutionized print journalism by fine-tuning, if not inventing, the multi-sectioned, compartmentalized daily paper, will shrink to two sections — the way it was 50 years ago. The Old Gray Lady is literally shriveling.

In such an environment, the Sun's backers took a courageous and expensive risk in launching their newspaper six-and-a-half years ago, while the New York economy was still ailing in the months following 9-11. They shared, with the pioneers and risk takers throughout the history of American journalism, an impulse to join the marketplace of ideas, and to risk fortunes and reputations in battles on that combative playing field. Born in a period of economic crisis, the Sun died on Monday night, after a day in which the Dow plunged more points than on any day in its history.

Lipsky, Stoll, their staff, and their financial backers should be proud of their efforts, and are deserving of our praise.

— Ed Weintraub, publisher

## ALL DRAWN OUT



## LETTERS

# Bike-car war

To the editor,  
It has been quite a battle recently between cars and bikes — but why should the onus always fall on the car drivers ("Mean streets," Sept. 20)? If the bike riders are always complaining about the safety of sharing the road with cars and not having enough thoroughfares specifically geared to them, then they should abide by the same laws and licensing that car drivers do.

Because more bike riders now use their bikes as their main mode of transportation, not merely for pleasure, they should have to be licensed and their bikes registered with the state. Also, their bikes should be equipped with a headlight and rear lights. It is very difficult at times to see a bike flying past you in the evening. They should also have to obey the traffic lights and stop signs. If the bike riders took a bit more responsibility in their riding, there might not be so many accidents.

Liz Ciorciari, Williamsburg

To the editor,  
Hokey for the bike explosion! I live in Red Hook, where there are no trains and it is almost essential to have a bike if you live in Red Hook.

That said, your article did not address the problem of the historic cobblestone streets, which is a huge problem for bikers. I am a safe bike rider — I wear a helmet, have appropriate lighting, use hand signals when necessary, and I'm always on the street and going in the right direction — but around my neighborhood, I MUST use the sidewalks until I can get to a decently paved road.

Kathleen Culla, Red Hook

# Nice try, Mom

To the editor,  
Smartmom, you are free not to like Sarah Palin ("Sarah Palin and her: Imperfect together," Sept. 20), but how about basing your dislikes on truths?

There is absolutely no credible evidence that Palin has called for the banning of books, or a single book. You [also] don't know that the stem cell debate has been rendered largely moot by new techniques that obviate the need to work with embryos.

I love Park Slope (which resembles a "small town" the way the "France" of Epcot resembles the country) and Gov. Palin, and will proudly vote for her on Election Day.

And hopefully, on Nov. 5, I will be able to walk down Seventh Avenue and bask in the depression of thousands of Park Slopers coming to grips with a President McCain, a Vice President Palin, and an America safe from the clutches of "green politics," "socialism" and the "Park Slope Doctrine."

Steven Rosenberg, Park Slope

To the editor,  
Last week's letter from a Palin-loving soldier ("This soldier's story is pro-Palin," Sept. 27) had a big problem: Darwin was not religious. One reason he delayed publication of "The Origin of Species" was that he understood its ramifications for theists in general and, in particular, his wife who was an ardent believer.

If the writer of that letter watched any of the recent Palin interviews, perhaps he's changed his mind about having her be one heartbeat away from being president.

R.K. Dillon, Park Slope

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This is a hereby given from and On order hereby the Civil Court, Kings County on the 14th day of October 2008, bearing Index Number KN-0009219-08, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk of the Court, located at the New York State Court of Kings County, 141 Lexington Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants me the right to assume the name of Lucy LaFleur DeLaurie. My present name is Lucy LaFleur DeLaurie and I was born on 01/01/1978 in New York City, East Side, Brooklyn, New York. My place of birth is in Harlem, my date of birth is 01/01/1978. BPG

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